

Online Bible Study  
*Doors – Garage Door*

A door is a pathway to opportunity. We walk through doors everyday. Some days we open doors to new relationships or new business. Other days, we close the doors on activities, relationships, and sometimes even on God. God created a pathway for us to know Him. He sent Christ to be the open door for us to know God and the power of His love.

The garage door symbolizes openness to those around you or a closed-off spirit. Many of us close our garage door to the outside world and live private lives. God has created us all to live in community – to live with an open door to others.

God opened a door so that we might know Him. He made a way through Christ for us to know Him and His love. As you prepare your heart for this study, spend some time opening your own heart and mind to Christ. Take a moment to focus your time and attention on this study. Let these be moments that might encourage you as you commune with the Spirit, and as the Word of God brings you life.

In Luke 7, we find a story of what it might look like to live with an open door type of life. Read Luke 7:17-26, and then work through the following questions.

*17One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick. 18Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. 19When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.*

*20When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."*

*21The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"*

*22Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? 23Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? 24But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..." He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 25Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. 26Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."*

As you read this text, what immediately comes to your mind?

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This passage is full of relationship. It's full of people who are pursuing an "open door" life, people coming to Jesus to find healing and hope, people bringing friends to Jesus, and people who are prepared to cast stones at Jesus' teaching. Where do you find yourself today? Where do you think you would fit in this story?

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In this passage, we find "roof crashers." Guys who were willing to crash through a roof to get their friend to the feet of Jesus. Do you have people that are willing to crash through a roof to carry you to the feet of Jesus? Name those here?

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Do these friends of yours know that you expect them to serve in this way? Take a moment and identify one of these "roof crashers," the one to whom you feel closest. Take a break from this study and phone that person to let them know that you expect them to support you in this role. Tell that person that you need them to be a "roof crusher" in your life. Give that friend permission to not only tell you what you want to hear, but also what you need to hear. Give them permission to be creative in their pursuit of drawing you to Jesus!

Many of us have "roof crashers" in our lives. We have people that would show up in crisis. But what about people to do life deeply with when we are not in crisis? Are you currently cultivating meaningful personal relationships with people that could bring life to your day? People that don't just show up in crisis, but those that show up regularly in life. What do those relationships look like today?

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Ecclesiastes 4:12 says, "Two are better than one...a cord of three strands is not easily broken." What is the writer communicating here?

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How are you today developing a cord of three strands that is not easily broken? What are you doing to initiate this type of relationship?

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In the middle of the Luke text we find the paralyzed man being healed. Luke 7:20 says, "When Jesus saw their faith, he said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven.'" Whose faith made the paralyzed man well? It was because of their faith! The faith of the paralyzed man's friends.

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Have you ever felt carried to the feet of Jesus by your friends? Have you ever been in a situation where you were healed because of the faith of friends? Or, have you ever been a part of a friendship where you were a part of another's healing? Describe below.

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"More than anything else God uses people to heal people." In what ways does God want to use you to heal others today? What is He calling you to do to step into this process of healing?

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Is there anything in you that needs healing? Is there a part of you that feels broken or wounded? Proverbs says, "but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." Let Jesus meet you in your brokenness. Let Jesus meet you in your place of paralysis. Today let Him be your healer.

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What do you think life for the paralyzed man would have looked like after this healing? What would he talk about? What would he be willing to say or do for the cause of Christ?

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If you have met Christ, then you too have gone from a life of paralysis to a life of healing and wholeness. When we meet Christ we become new creations. The old goes away and all things are made new (2 Corinthians 5:18). Where are you in this story? What part of the transformation process do you find yourself living in today?

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At the end of this story, we find a healed man and people responding to this “remarkable” act. God wants to use your story of healing to cause others to be inspired and encouraged. Identify one person to whom you could share your story of healing. Schedule time this week to share your story.

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